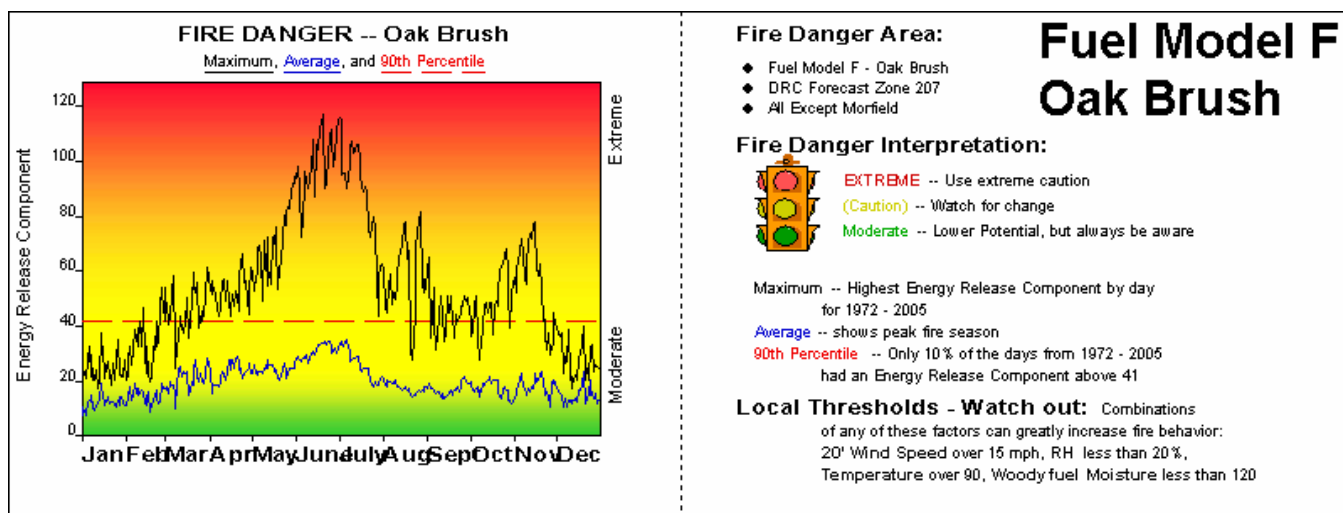




# Southwest Colorado Fire Danger Fuel Model F – Oak Brush



**Fuel Model F OAK BRUSH** - The Gambel Oak fuel type in Southwest Colorado is generally found between 7,000 and 8,500 feet elevation. Fuels generally consist of Gambel Oak (0 - 25 feet tall) with Ponderosa Pine overstory, oak being the primary carrier of fire and facilitates the transition for crown fire initiation in the pine. Pockets (50-80 acres) of pure Gambel Oak are randomly intermixed in this zone, primarily on south aspects. A majority of the pine/oak zone is characterized by gentle rolling topography. Gambel Oak that has been pre-heated by fire has potential to re-burn. Frost damaged oak may exhibit extreme fire behavior. Other environmental factors that are conducive to extreme fire behavior are winds greater than 15 MPH, relative humidity under 20%, and live fuel moistures below 90%. Soil moisture is heavily depleted by Gambel Oak, causing additional stress on the Ponderosa Pine in and around oak clumps. This is likely a mixed severity fire regime fuel type, with a fire frequency from 1 to 22 years.

**Dates to Remember:** Bircher Fire, 7/20/00, 23,220 Acres, BI-47, ERC-55  
West Toe Fire, 6/21/86, 5,500 Acres, BI-28, ERC-35